Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 7, line 22 and ending at page 7, line 24 to read, as follows.

--Fig. 2 is a flowchart ~~flow chart~~ showing the procedure of detecting a toner residual amount in a developing container in Embodiment 1 of the present invention.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 8, line 5 and ending at page 8, line 8 to read, as follows.

--Fig. 5 is a flowchart ~~flow chart~~ showing the "toner residual amount small mode" of the toner residual amount detecting procedure in the developing container in Embodiment 1 of the present invention.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 12, line 26 and ending at page 13, line 7 to read, as follows.

--The developing sleeve 6 is rotatively driven in the direction of arrow b (counterclockwise ~~(counter-clockwise~~ direction), and charges are imparted to the toner t by the contact friction among the particles of the toner t in the developing container 9, the contact friction between the toner t and the surface of the developing sleeve 6, etc., and the toner t is carried on the surface of the developing sleeve 6 to thereby form a toner layer.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 13, line 25 and ending at page 14, line 1 to read, as follows.

--The procedure of detecting the toner residual amount in the developing container 9 in the present embodiment will now be described with reference to a flowchart ~~flow chart~~ shown in Fig. 2.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 17, line 15 and ending at page 18, line 5 to read, as follows.

--So, in the present embodiment, the number of times N' of the "toner absent" detection as a reference value has been set to 80 times, that is, toner residual amount detection has been effected with the "toner absent" detection equal to or greater than 80% of the number of times of sampling ($N \geq N'$)(Step S10). Then, during this detection, the toner amount in the developing container 9 is judged to have reached a predetermined value, and by a signal from the toner residual amount detecting portion 13, "notice ~~"Notice~~ and replenishment" indicating that the toner residual amount in the developing apparatus is insufficient" is displayed on the panel of the operation portion (not shown) of the image forming apparatus (step S12). Also, if at the step S10, the result of the detection is not $N \geq N'$, the image forming operation (copying operation) is terminated (step S11).--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 20, line 22 and ending at page 20, line 25 to read, as follows.

--The procedure of detecting the toner residual amount in the developing container 9 in this case will now be described with reference to a flowchart ~~flow chart~~ shown in Fig. 5.--